

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

There are provided a method and an apparatus for applying electroless plating to the cylinder of an internal combustion engine, which are capable of applying the plating exclusively to the portion where the plating is essentially required, thereby making it possible to save the plating solution and to reduce the cost for the metal plating. The method includes filling the cylinder with a plating solution, and permitting the plating solution to pass through and along the axial line of the cylinder, thereby permitting a layer of electroless plating to be deposited on an inner circumferential surface of the cylinder. The plating apparatus is capable of applying electroless plating to the inner surface of the cylinder having a through-hole at the head portion thereof and includes ~~is constituted by~~: clamping means for holding the cylinder in a predetermined posture; plating solution-introducing means ~~for introducing a plating solution into the cylinder~~; and plating solution-circulating means ~~for filling the interior of the cylinder with the plating solution introduced by the plating solution-introducing means while enabling the plating solution to pass along the axial line and through the interior of the cylinder to thereby apply the plating to the inner surface of the cylinder.~~